

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A spacing member to be attached to a process cartridge, which includes: a photosensitive drum; a charging roller adapted to contact with said photosensitive drum for charging said photosensitive drum; and a shutter member for covering the exposure portion, where said photosensitive drum is exposed from a cartridge frame, and which can be mounted in and demounted from a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

a spacing portion for spacing said photosensitive drum and said charging roller when said spacing member is attached to said process cartridge;

a stopper portion for preventing said shutter member from retracting from a protection position for covering said exposure portion, when said spacing member is attached to said process cartridge; and

a protective portion for covering a positioning portion, which positions said process cartridge in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus when said process cartridge is mounted in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus, when said spacing member is attached to said process cartridge.

2. A spacing member according to Claim 1, further

comprising a grip portion for an operator to remove said spacing member from said process cartridge,

wherein said grip portion is arranged upstream of an insertion direction, in which said stopper portion is inserted into said process cartridge, when said spacing member is to be attached to said process cartridge.

3. A spacing member according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said protective portion comes into contact with said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus to prevent said process cartridge from being mounted in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus, when said process cartridge is to be mounted in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus without detaching said spacing member.

4. A spacing member according to Claim 3, wherein said protective portion covers the righthand and lefthand bearings of said process cartridge as the positioning portion, which positions said process cartridge in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus when said process cartridge is mounted in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus.

5. A spacing member according to Claim 4,  
wherein said protective portion has a half-moon  
shape.

6. A spacing member according to Claim 1 or 2,  
wherein the directions of said spacing member to  
be attached to and detached from said process cartridge  
are generally perpendicular to the moving direction of  
said shutter member.

7. A process cartridge detachably mountable to a  
main body of an electrophotographic image forming  
apparatus , comprising:

- (i) a photosensitive drum;
- (ii) a charging roller adapted to contact with said  
photosensitive drum for charging said photosensitive  
drum;
- (iii) a shutter member for covering the exposure portion,  
where said photosensitive drum is exposed from a  
cartridge frame; and
- (iv) a spacing member,

wherein said spacing member includes:

a spacing portion for spacing said photosensitive  
drum and said charging roller;

a stopper portion for preventing said shutter  
member from retracting from a protection position for  
covering said exposure portion; and

a protective portion for covering a positioning portion, which positions said process cartridge in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus when said process cartridge is mounted in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus.

8. A process cartridge according to Claim 7, wherein said spacing member further includes a grip portion for an operator to remove said spacing member from said process cartridge,

wherein said grip portion is arranged upstream of an insertion direction, in which said stopper portion is inserted into said process cartridge, when said spacing member is to be attached to said process cartridge.

9. A process cartridge according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein said protective portion comes into contact with said apparatus body to prevent said process cartridge from being mounted in said apparatus body, when said process cartridge is to be mounted in said apparatus body without detaching said spacing member.

10. A process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said protective portion covers the righthand and lefthand bearings of said process

cartridge as the positioning portion, which positions said process cartridge in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus when said process cartridge is mounted in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus.

11. A process cartridge according to Claim 10, wherein said protective portion has a half-moon shape.

12. A process cartridge according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein the directions of said spacing member to be attached to and detached from said process cartridge are generally perpendicular to the moving direction of said shutter member.

13. An electrophotografic image forming apparatus to which a process cartridge is detachably mountable to a main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus,

the electrophotografic image forming apparatus comprising:

(i) a mounting portion for removably mounting a process cartridge including a photosensitive drum, a charging roller adapted to contact with said photosensitive drum for charging said photosensitive drum, and a shutter member for covering the exposure

portion, where said photosensitive drum is exposed from a cartridge frame;

(ii) a preventing portion for contacting with a spacing member to prevent said process cartridge from being mounted in said mounting portion without detaching the spacing member;

wherein said spacing member includes:

a spacing portion for spacing said photosensitive drum and said charging roller;

a stopper portion for preventing said shutter member from retracting from a protection position for covering said exposure portion; and

a protective portion for covering a positioning portion, which positions said process cartridge in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus when said process cartridge is mounted in said main body of the electrophotografic image forming apparatus.